MEN WHO WANT THE EARTH

They Have Schemes to Get a Man's Fair-Money Before It Is Due, and New York Is Full of Them.

"By the way," said the stranger, "I suppose you're going to the great fair?"
We had been lumbing together quite socidentally—so far as I was concerned and the stranger had done his best to entertain me by giving me his harmless but erroneous opinions upon a number of general and uninteresting topics. I knew that the stranger wanted to fasten his adhesive fingers upon the (supposed) contents of my pocketbook, for the meaning of his style of conver-



NOW AS TO TRANSPORTATION."

ries in this vale of bunco. It is adopted the purpose of gaining one's confi-ice, but I think it is a mistake. Why, for instance, should a book agent or a life insurance man begin his as-sault by abandoning the one subject on which he is well posted to discuss others about which he never knows anything? These clever salesmen who are supposed to be able by a few desultory remarks to warm our hearts with childlike trustfulness, so that they can sell us half a cartload of brickbats at a dollar spiece -these fellows, I say, never deceive me in the least. It is the honest, simple-



minded man, with no faculty for beatmy office. I remember such a man at this moment. He was a good fellow, and I took what he offered. I can't recall what it was, but I receive a bill for it almost every month, though that was eight

But the stranger who lunched with me accidentally was not the sort of a man to bring negotiations to so satisfactory a conclusion. He was covetous; he

"Going to the great fair?" said he. "Why, of course. Everybody's going. And that explains my question. I've



taken a great fancy to you in the course of our little conversation, and I don't want to think that you are going to Chicago in all that crush with no place engaged to sleep in. Why, I went to tion and had to hire a suite of spartments on a hay mow up in central Pennsylvania. And I generally rode into the city such annoyance in Chicago. I wish you

rould look into our plan."

Then he pried up one corner of his plan so that I could look into it. I if you think I want anything out of you in return, why go to blaces!"

And he strode away in a rage. I sat the curbotone and shed and reputable citizens (whose names are not in the directory), had begun negotiations looking toward securing a commodious and elegantly-appointed flatbout, which during the season of festivity was to be anchored in Lake Michigan in such a position that the Twenty-sixth street, where he is known window of every stateroom would at as "Unidentified, box No 13." window of every stateroom would at all times give a full view of the fair inds, no matter which side of the flatboat happened to be toward the shore. Tickets entitling the holder to a stateroom and board were to be sold on the installment plan, ten dollars down and the balance at a V per month. The number of tickets was necessarily limited. and, therefore, I could not do better than give up a ten-dollar note at once to the authorised agent of the company, who stood before me. And how did the

not been hit since Bunco Kine O'Brien went to England. The only difficulty was that the force of the blow was lessened because I had grown securiomed to it. The town, I told him, was full of propositions on the subject couldn't Special sais of dress goods this week met a chance to be heard. How at L. J. Nichols'.

GOING TO THE FAIR? ever, if the World's Pair Accom nodation Company would take my L. O. U. for ten dollars down and the subsequent monthly installments I should feel that I had not paid a cent more than the thing was worth. Then the stranger said, in a somewhat weary tone, that he did not doubt that the company would be gind to do it. He would consult the president. I don't remember to have met the president. but we must know each other, for I

haven't seen his agent since.

I was reminded of him a few days later, however, by my barber, who, while he chipped little pieces off my Adam's apple, interrupted the ordinary flow of his discourse to remark: By the way, I suppose you are going

o the great fair?" With the glittering steel at my throat I confessed that it was my intention to visit Chicago while the robbery was in

"Then, I wish you would look into a little plan of mine," said he, as he drew the edge of the razor with a harsh, grating sound over his thumbnail. "Of ourse you realise what a crowd there'll be in all the barbers' shops in Chicago during the fair. Well sir, for \$2 down and \$1 a month from now till the fair opens, you can get a ticket which will entitle you to be next gent in any firstclass shop in the city. Our combination includes all the best places, where—" and he rooted out the stubble from the recesses of my pet dimple, "you can get as good a shave, pretty near, as you get right in this chair."

I thanked him cordially for the oppor-tunity, but added that I intended to raise a beard before going to Chicago, in order that I might be mistaken for a western man, and thus get on the right side of the layout.

"As to that matter of transportation," said a stranger who was just getting out of the next chair, "I wish you would look into a little plan which has been gotten up by the Columbian Round Trip and Palace Car Company. For \$67, \$10

"Yes, yes; I know all about that," said I, hastily. "Every man, woman and child I meet nowadays has a world's fair scheme, and they're all alike." "Well, sir," he continued, "for that

modest sum you are entitled to a firstmodest sum you are entitled to a first-class passage on one of the Eastern line's magnificent steamships to Ma-chiasport, Me., where you connect by stage with the Canadian Pacific's ele-gant vestibuled express for the west, and with only one change of cars, you filter gently down into Chicago, and never knew what it is to feel the dis-comforts of ordinary traveling."

comforts of ordinary traveling."

Here was a really good liar. Some of the others had bored me. It would be nice to hear him lie some more, so I put

leading question:
"But isn't that a somewhat roundabout route? I admit that it's more direct than some that have been proposed to me, and yet it isn't exactly a bee line, don't you know?"

"Boundabout!" he exclaimed. "Why,

man, you're traveling for pleasure and to see the sights. Here I offer you a free opportunity to behold all that glorious scenery, to actually get out o' sight o' land on the way to Chicago and see the sun rise over the broad ocean, and you talk about going a few miles out of your way. Why, what do you

"I'll tell you what I want," said I, with icy calm. "I want to kill the next man who proposes to me a scheme con-nected with the world's fair. I'm going out to see it, for it'll be the biggest of its kind that ever was, but the next game, such as ducks, geese, quail, snipe, etc. In the grandeur of her agent who springs a catchpenny device on me will bite the dust, and it won't be the sort of dust he's gunning for,

either. See?" Somehow I never could keep a good resolution. I haven't killed a man yet, though I've been approached by a little less than six thousand people with schemes for getting my fair money before it is due. Once, however, I was on the very verge of murderous assault. It was in the case of Judson C. Spiller. Jud and I went to school together years A., Detroit, Mich., or James C. Fond, ago. I never liked him, but when we met here in New York the sight of him | Chicago, Ill. brought back to memory so many boys and girls whom I did like, but never meet, of course, that I shook his hand with real cordiality. We talked of many pleasant things in the past, and nothing was further from my mind than selfish, grasping schemes. But at length he said: "By the way, I suppose you're going to the great fair?"
I paused and glared at him.

'Of course you are," he continued.

This was just what they all had said. Mentally I was sharpening an ax for

"If you're thinking of going," he continued, "I wish you would look in—"
"Judson C. Spiller," said I, interrupting him, "you're a ruscal. In the guise of friendship and in the memory of the dear departed days when we used to fight behind the old red schoolhouse, you steal into my confidence only to propose some infernal mercenary scheme. Judson, you are the last straw that breaks the back of my patience. If

fore I cut you up-"
"Why, confound it, Howdy, what's the matter with you?" he exclaimed. "I on the cow-catcher of a freight train. was only going to say that I wished But by our plan you will be saved all you'd look in and see us at our house while you were out there. We'd have been glad to have you bring your wife and visit us for a couple of weeks. But

> down upon the curbatone and shed tears. Then I arose and looked up the agent of the World's Pair Accommodation Company. If his friends or his creditors wish to find him now they may inquire for him at the foot of East

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cerely believe that no cure is possible. In the majority of cases (especially those of less than two years' duration) catarra can be cured in a few weeks by the proper use of Peruna. Some cases are cured by ax bottles, others by four, and we have not a low test-monals who have professed a cure from even one bottle of this remedy. Where a case of catarrh has existed for five or ten years a permanent cure can not be reasonably hoped for in leasthan three or four months, and in ome rare cases the continued use Pe-ru-na for one year has been neces-sary to effect a permanent cure. But unless the case is very old or compli

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